
SENATE BILL 6736

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen, Fairley, Oemig, Delvin, Kohl-Welles, Marr, Roach, Parlette, Keiser, Kilmer, and Kline

Read first time 01/22/08. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to lifelong learning services for individuals
2 diagnosed with severe to profound intellectual developmental
3 disabilities; adding a new chapter to Title 71A RCW; and making an
4 appropriation.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a developmental
7 disability is a natural part of human experience and the presence of a
8 developmental disability in the life of a person does not diminish or
9 alter a person's rights or opportunity to participate fully in the life
10 of the community. The legislature recognizes that with the advancement
11 and widespread availability of medical, educational, and social
12 services, people with significant, multiple developmental disabilities
13 are living longer and that investing in them at every stage of life
14 helps maintain their skills and abilities and provides them the
15 opportunity to have a meaningful daily life. Providing continued
16 learning opportunities for individuals with severe and profound
17 intellectual developmental disabilities supports both the individual
18 and helps to maintain the well-being of the family.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The purpose of this chapter is to:

2 (1) Create lifelong learning services administered by the
3 department of social and health services which include a balanced array
4 of social and supportive services that promote individual choice,
5 dignity, and the highest practicable level of independence. These
6 lifelong learning services shall be:

7 (a) Based on the specific needs of the person with a developmental
8 disability;

9 (b) State-administered; and

10 (c) Available throughout the state;

11 (2) Ensure that individual needs will be determined by uniform
12 comprehensive assessment;

13 (3) Ensure that services are provided in the most inclusive
14 situation consistent with individual needs;

15 (4) Ensure that lifelong learning service options be developed and
16 made available that enable individuals to continue to live in their
17 homes or other community residential support programs or in the care of
18 their families;

19 (5) Ensure that lifelong learning services are coordinated in a way
20 that minimizes administrative cost, eliminates unnecessarily complex
21 organization, minimizes program and service duplication, and maximizes
22 the use of financial resources in directly meeting the needs of
23 persons;

24 (6) Support higher educational institutions in Washington state to
25 assist in the provision of lifelong learning services; and

26 (7) Be responsive and appropriate to individual need and also cost-
27 effective for the state.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The services provided under this chapter are
29 not intended to replace employment supports or the pathway to
30 employment but are additional supports and training a person with a
31 developmental disability is assessed to need in order to live an
32 independent and meaningful life.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Under the lifelong services program,
34 individuals, to the maximum extent possible, must be given a choice of
35 services and authority to exercise control over the resources available

1 to them. The department of social and health services, to the maximum
2 extent feasible, will seek a federal medicaid match for funds
3 appropriated for lifelong learning services.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** To be eligible for lifelong learning
5 services, individuals must be at least twenty-one years old and
6 diagnosed with a severe to profound intellectual developmental
7 disability. Authorized services will be based on the individual's
8 assessed need. The services may be provided alone or with employment
9 or other day service options.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Based on the funds appropriated by the
11 legislature, the following services may be provided under the lifelong
12 services program:

- 13 (1) Independent living skills training;
- 14 (2) Community participation;
- 15 (3) Social skills training;
- 16 (4) Self-advocacy training;
- 17 (5) Recreation;
- 18 (6) Continuing education classes;
- 19 (7) Personal assistance; and
- 20 (8) Transportation.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The sum of three million dollars, or as much
22 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium ending
23 June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the department of social and
24 health services for the purposes of creating the lifelong services
25 described in this act.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act constitute
27 a new chapter in Title 71A RCW.

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